

PRESERVING: ■ FAMILY FARMS ■ SOIL ■ SCENIC VIEWS
 ■ RIVERS & STREAMS ■ CULTURAL SITES ■ SCENIC BYWAYS
 ■ GROUND WATER ■ RURAL CHARACTER



Clarke County Easement News

WINTER

2008

50 Acres of Open Space Helping Protect Water and Wildlife on the Mountain

The Easement Authority has added 50 more acres of open space on the mountain, bringing the total to 125.21 acres. (49.8 acres off Blue Ridge Mountain Road were added in 2006; 25.41 acres at Willow Lake were added in 2007.)



Photo by Pat McKelvy

The property, owned by Mel Kohn, sits on a plateau once part of a 600-acre farm. The parcel runs between the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah River with habitat composed of both woodland and field and hosting a variety of wildlife from bear to beaver, deer and fox. A small man-made pond is fed by mountain springs, part of the Morgans Mill watershed. Many of these local ponds harbor Canada geese during their flights north and south and offer a safe “nursery” for

spring babies. In accepting the donation, which included the extinguishment of three dwelling unit rights (DURS), the Authority expressed gratitude to Mr. Kohn for helping expand open space on the mountain, so critical to watershed preservation not only on the mountain but throughout the county.

True or False?

At the current rate of open-land conversion for development, Virginia will lose more heritage-land resources in the next 40 years than have been consumed since Captain John Smith set foot on Virginia soil more than 400 years ago.

Answer on reverse side.

“Would My Property Be a Candidate for a Permanent Conservation Easement?”

That’s a question we’re encouraging all Clarke County residents to ask themselves this year. Thanks to a grant just received from the state in the amount of \$403,200, we have resources available to begin the process of identifying prospective properties for consideration.

Would Yours Qualify? Take This Quick “Test” to See:

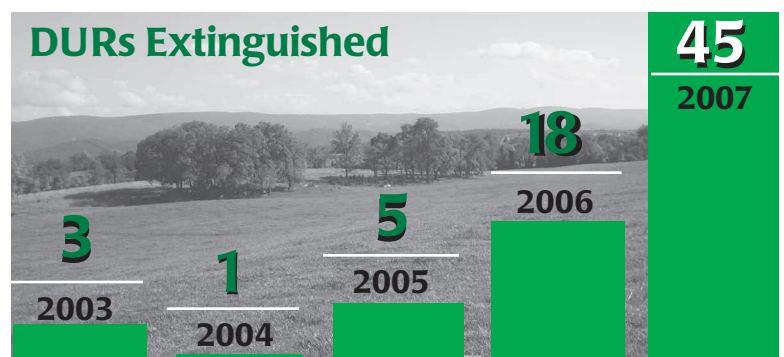
- 1 Do you own 40 acres of land or more?
- 2 Would at least one DUR be extinguished if your property were put in easement?
- 3 Does your property possess a unique, historic, or scenic resource? For instance, does it have a stream? A viewshed? Threatened or endangered wildlife?
- 4 Does it sit next to land already publicly owned or held in easement?
- 5 Will it add to the permanent protection of land designated as Agricultural-Open-Space Conservation or Forestal-Open-Space Conservation?

If you answered **YES** to three of the five questions and are interested in exploring next steps, please send your name and property address to Alison Teetor at ateetor@clarkecounty.gov. Put “Easement Authority” in the subject box. Or call her at 540-955-5134.

Easement Doubles its Holdings in 2007

1261 Acres Protected. 45 Dwelling Unit Rights Extinguished

Thanks to generous tax breaks from the federal government — and growing awareness about the importance of preserving open space — 22 property owners put their land in permanent easement in 2007, equal to the total number from the four previous years! In addition, 45 DURs were extinguished, helping eliminate new dwellings in outlying areas and the cost of providing goods and services to homeowners that would have come out of taxpayers’ pockets.



THANK YOU, Donors— Current and New— For Your Generous Support in 2007!

More individuals gave more than ever before to protect open space in Clarke County in 2007. Our donor roll now includes 221 individuals, 86 of whom were added this year — a 60% increase over the previous year. In addition, we received 166 donations resulting in a 45% increase in dollars raised. Many donors gave more than once.

The gifts ranged in size from \$10 to more than \$1,000 and

came from every corner of the county. This growing support demonstrates increased awareness about the role open space plays in protecting not only our county's rich scenic beauty but life-sustaining resources such as water and air.

Contributions to Easement Authority are used to purchase easements, pay closing costs on donated properties, or both. We hope you will continue to be as generous as your circumstances allow in 2008.

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Paz Andrae
 Scott & Doris Andres
 Wayne & Linda Armbrust
Harry Lee Arnold, Jr.
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New Donor who contributed in 2007 Current donor who contributed in 2007

Did you know?

When rain falls on open space, it seeps through the earth, which filters it. By contrast, when rain falls on surfaces such as asphalt or rooftops, it picks up pollutants that can find their way into our rivers and streams. Researchers have found that where more than 10% of the land is covered in surfaces of

this type, water quality is likely to be impaired.

Go green this spring! Hook up a rain barrel. Plant a tree.

Conserve water with rain barrels. Add oxygen with new trees. You'll get help doing both by attending **Berryville Main Street's 2nd Annual Arbor Day**

Celebration in Rose Hill Park in downtown Berryville Friday, April 25, 2008. Activities include a workshop on rain barrel installation and use — with the option of purchasing one after the presentation — and distribution of tree seedlings from the Virginia Cooperative Extension with help from the Lions Club "Leos."

The day begins with Park clean-up at 10am. For details call: 540 955-4001.

Answer: True!



Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority
 102 North Church Street
 Berryville, VA 22611